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THE MONTHLY GULL BULLETIN

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY INC.

Volume 37 Berkeley, California, September, 1955 Number 9

JULY TRIP TO WRIGHT'S LAKE

The week-end trip of July 16 - 17 to Wright's Lake in the Sierra Nevada was attended by a group of 33, including several members each of the Sacramento and Mt. Diablo Audubon Societies, including their presidents Robert Cunningham and Harry Adamson. Dr. Irston Barnes of the Audubon Society of the District of Columbia was also present. The campground itself was a good birding spot, with singing Cassin Finches, Audubon Warblers and Western Tanagers; in the evening Nighthawks called above and their spectacular dive was seen *and heard*. Several nests of Mountain Chickadees with young were found; the parents were photographed as they brought food to the babies.

On Saturday morning we circled Wright's Lake; the rocky ridge north of the campground, and the dense woods and meadow north of the lake were good spots. In the afternoon we hiked to nearby Dark Lake, and on Sunday morning we visited the area north of the lake again, including the upper meadow. Howard Cogswell's imitations of hooting Saw-whet and Pymgy Owls produced surprising numbers of scolding birds. Singing Fox Sparrows and and Green-tailed Towhees were found on the rocky ridge. Both meadows yielded Spotted Sandpipers and singing Lincoln Sparrows. On Sunday two Vaux Swifts were seen near the lake. It was noted that the White-crowned Sparrow's song was quite different from those of the Nuttall and Gambel subspecies as heard in the Bay area.

The following list of 47 species included only those observed after leaving U. S. 50: Mallard (female and young), Red-tailed Hawk 1 (the only hawk seen), Sooty Grouse, Spotted Sandpiper, Nighthawk, Vaux Swift, Calliope Hummingbird, Red-shafted Flicker, Yellow-bellied (Red-breasted) Sapsucker, Williamson Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, White-headed Woodpecker, Hammond (?), Flycatcher, Wright Flycatcher, Western Wood Pewee, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Violet-green Swallow, Steller Jay, Clark Nutcracker, Mountain Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Robin, Hermit Thrush, Townsend Solitaire, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Solitary Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler Audubon Warbler, Hermit Warbler, Macgillivray Warbler, Brewer Blackbird, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Cassin Finch, Pine Grosbeak, Pine Siskin, Green-tailed Towhee, Oregon Junco, Chipping Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, and Lincoln Sparrow.

— A. Laurence Curl, *Leader and Historian.*

JULY TRIP TO SANTA CRUZ COAST, BEN LOMOND MOUNTAIN, AND BIG BASIN

On Sunday, July 24, it was foggy along the Santa Cruz coast when a group of about 20 persons walked out past a small marshy area at the mouth of a creek and onto a sandy beach between sea cliffs. The hope that there would be Black Swifts by the cliffs was realized when one was seen sitting tightly on its nest! Nearby the promised Pigeon Guillemots were carrying fish into niches on the cliffs, and a mile or so offshore thousands of Shearwaters, probably Sooties, were flying past. In the marshy area a female Yellow-throat was fussing, and a Green Heron flew over. Three Purple Martins were feeding very close to the group on the beach, and on the walk back to the highway an adult was seen feeding one of three fledgling Martins on a telephone wire.

From the coast the group drove up the Bonnie Doon Road into bright sunlight on Ben Lomond Mountain. At the lunch stop, in a redwood forest association near Bonnie Doon, Pygmy Nuthatches were noted and a young Winter Wren was begging for food from an adult. After lunch a visit to a sandy flat where Ponderosa and Knobcone Pines associate yielded good views of Ash-throated Flycatcher and Chipping Sparrow. Finally the Empire Grade Road was followed to the top of Eagle Rock overlooking Big Basin. At the Locatelli Ranch near the lookout a Lazuli Bunting was singing persistently.

Three members who had stayed the week-end at Ben Lomond, but who failed to find the group after lunch as they had planned, went on into California Redwoods State Park at Big Basin. Their observations combined with those of the main group form the following list of 72 species of birds recorded in the areas visited:

Sooty (?) Shearwater, Brown Pelican, Brandt Cormorant, Pelagic Cormorant, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, California Quail, Killdeer, Hudsonian Curlew, Western (?) Sandpiper, Western Gull, California Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Heermann Gull, Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Mourning Dove, Black Swift, Anna Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-shafted Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Western Flycatcher, Western Wood Pewee, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Violet-green Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Purple Martin, Steller Jay, Scrub Jay, Common Raven, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Bush-tit, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Pygmy Nuthatch, Wren-tit, House Wren, Winter Wren, Bewick Wren, California Thrasher, Robin, (Russet-backed) Swainson Thrush, Western Bluebird, Loggerhead Shrike, Hutton Vireo, Solitary Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow-throat, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Brewer Blackbird, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Purple Finch, House Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, (Green-backed) Lesser Goldfinch, Spotted Towhee, Brown Towhee, Oregon Junco, Chipping Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, SongSparrow.

— EMILY D. SMITH, *Leader and Historian.*

FIELD TRIPS THIS MONTH

On Sunday, September 11, the Boat Trip to S. E. Farallon Island (see August GULL). At this writing (Aug. 20) there is still one vacancy.

On Sunday, September 25, to Alameda and BAY FARM ISLAND for the fall migrant shorebirds, which should be close to maximum numbers on this date. This trip and the next were shifted from planned dates to enable coverage at better times of tides. Meet at 8:30 (*Pacific Standard Time*) at Santa Clara Ave. and High Street in Alameda, which is reached by the Key System line 51 from Berkeley and Oakland and the D line from San Francisco. Bring binoculars, telescopes, interested friends, and lunch if desired. The conducted trip will last until sometime in the mid-day period. Leader, Mrs. Junea W. Kelly, LA. 2-7084.

On Saturday, October 1, to the visinity of Ross and the bay shore in Marin County near San Rafael. Migrant and winter visitant land-birds should be present in numbers, and the visit to the bay in mid-day should provide opportunity to study numerous shorebirds and some early waterfowl. Meet at 9:00 at the Fire Station in Ross (which can be reached by Greyhound Bus from San Francisco). Transportation in the late a.m. to the Bay shore will be by private car. Bring binoculars, telescopes, lunch and interested friends. Leader, Howard L. Cogswell, TR. 3-6419.

— HOWARD L. COGSWELL, *Chairman, Field Trips Committee.*

OBSERVATIONS. Great Blue Heron, with large white patch at end of both wings, Aug. 21, near San Carlos (Ed.) Northern Phalarope, Jewel Lake, Tilden Park, August 11 (A. S. Campbell.) Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Central Berkeley, July 30 (ASC).

The Editor on a trip to Washington in June saw several Chukar Partridges. Identification was complicated by the lack of a picture of this bird in any of the common field guides. It was called to his attention by Howard Cogswell that this bird is covered in "A Field Guide to the Birds of Britain and Europe", by Peterson, Mountfort and Hollom, under the name of Rock Partridge (Alectoris graeca).

The Seventy-third Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists Union will be held in Boston, Mass., on October 25 - 30.

AUDUBON FIELD NOTES announces that, because of skyrocketing costs, it will be necessary to require every observer on the Christmas counts this winter to pay an entry fee of $ 0.50 for each count in which he participates. The June number of AFN contains the Winter Bird Population Study. The Pacific Coast was represented by four studies, two at Vancouver, B.C. California was represented by one near Menlo Park by Pat and Helen Donaghey, and by one in Strawberry Canyon, Berkeley, by Richard G. Beidleman of Colorado A & M, Fort Collins. Mr. Beidleman while here was a participant in the Oakland Count.

Included in theApril 1955 number of THE AUK was an article "A Gull New to North America" by LTJG. Burt L. Monroe, Jr., of San Diego. The bird turned out to be an adult female Japanese Gull (Larus crassirostris); it was slightly larger than a California, had a dark mantle like a Western, bright yellow legs like a Ring-bill, and the bill had a complete black band and was tipped with red. There was a well-defined complete black band on the otherwise white tail. Moral—it pays to look at all birds carefully!

SEPTEMBER MEETING

The 456th regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held in the West Auditorium of the Oakland Public Library, 14th and Oak Streets, on September 8, at 7:30. Following the usual business, Mr. Carl H. Fox, well-known photographer of Berkeley, will show some of his beautiful color film, including views of our National Parks and birds of Bay Farm Island, in Alameda. Come and bring your friends to enjoy this program.

— Mrs. Budd J. Smith, *Program Chairman.*

GARDEN SUPPER PARTY

The annual benefit garden supper party for the Audubon Camp Scholarship Fund will be held at the home of Dr. and Mrs. T. Eric Reynolds, 140 Estates Drive, Piedmont, on Wednesday, September 28, at six o'clock. Come and bring prospective members to this delightful occasion. There will be good food, music, and movies, along with the opportunity, through your attendance, to help provide scholarships to the Audubon Camp of California. Bus #18 on Franklin St., Oakland, goes out Park Boulevard. Get off at Leimert St. and continue on Park Blvd. one block to Estates Drive, then two blocks to #140. Send your reservations on enclosed postal card AT ONCE!

— Mrs. Ethel Farrar, *Chairman, Garden Party Committee.*

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to our society: from Berkeley, Miss Marion Fuller, Robert R. Lucas, Mrs. Hermine H. Van Gelder; from El Cerrito, Mrs. William R. Rowland; from Oakland, Mr. and Mrs. Frank M. Burtt, Miss Katherine Alexander, Mrs. Marguerite L. Hovsepian; from San Francisco, Erwin Bauer, Miss Violet M. Kellman, Mrs. Dorothy J. Layman, Mrs. Genevieve Malmstrom, Herbert A. Reese.

— Mrs. Frank A. Scott, *Membership Chairman.*

Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.

Established January 25, 1917

President.....Dr. Albert Boles,.....854 Longridge Road, Oakland 10, GL. 1-6267
Vice President.....Howard L. Cogswell....Box 486, Mills College, Oakland 13, TR. 3-6419
Vice President.....Mrs. George C. Browne.....2435 Ivy Drive, Oakland 6, TW. 3-5469
Treasurer.....Harold G. Peterson.....3548 - 65th Ave., Oakland 5, LO. 8-7534
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Cor. Secretary.....Miss Minnie H. Young.....2726 Prince Street, Berkeley 5, HU. 3-3180
Director.....Dr. T. Eric Reynolds.....140 Estates Drive, Piedmont 11, AN. 1-7121
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Director.....Arthur J. Bennett.....836 Mills Ave., San Bruno, JU. 8-6702
Membership Chairman.....Mrs. Frank A. Scott.....1508 La Loma Ave., Berkeey 8, AS. 3-1253
Editor.....A. Laurence Curl.....751 Balra Drive, El Cerrito 8, LA. 6-7004
Distribution Chairman..... Miss Alice B. Leet.....1050 Spruce Street, Berkeley 7, LA. 4-2488

Changes of Address should be sent to the Membership Chairman; claims for **missing** numbers of THE GULL should be sent to the Distribution Chairman.

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National $5.00 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE. Local Membership only, $1.50 per year.

Branch of NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, California Office — 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 4 — TH. 8-4042